

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 20-34 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 22, 25, and 31 have been amended to further clarify certain aspects of these claims to expedite prosecution, and without prejudice to or disclaimer of pursuing the subject matter of these claims in unamended or other forms in a continuation or other application. No claims have been canceled or added in this response.

In the Office Action mailed June 8, 2009, pending claims 1-7, 9, 20-31, 33 and 34 were rejected. More specifically, the status of the application in light of this Office Action is as follows:

- (A) The Specification and Drawings were objected to;
- (B) Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 20-24, 31, 33, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,909,226 to Takeda ("Takeda") and U.S. Patent No 6,381,377 to Wang ("Wang");
- (C) Claims 4 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of Takeda, Wang, and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2003/0184627 to Sasaki et al. ("Sasaki");
- (D) Claims 7 and 25-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of Takeda, Wang, and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US2004/0252330 to Brown et al. ("Brown"); and
- (E) Claims 8 and 32 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The undersigned attorney and his colleague, Aaron Poledna, wish to thank the Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor for engaging in a telephone conference on July 13, 2009, to discuss the present Office Action, the cited references, and the pending claims. The applicants request that this paper constitute the applicants'

Interview Summary. If the Examiner notices any deficiencies in this regard, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney to correct such deficiencies.

The following remarks summarize and expand upon the results of the July 13th telephone conference, and they also reflect the tentative agreement reached between the undersigned attorney and the Examiner during the telephone conference. For example, the following remarks reflect the Examiner's tentative acknowledgement that the applied references cannot support a Section 103 rejection of amended independent claims 1, 22, 25, and 31. More specifically, the Examiner acknowledged during the telephone conference that the applied references do not disclose the features of these independent claims including, for example, a casing or housing having an exterior surface with a first region laterally adjacent to a second region, and a scanning lid in the first region and a cartridge in the second region outside a periphery of the first region.

A. Response to the Objection to the Specification and the Drawings

The Specification and Drawings were objected to for various alleged informalities. More specifically, the Specification was objected to for allegedly including new matter, and the Drawings were objected to for allegedly not showing the features of the paper chute of claims 6 and 28. As shown in the Replacement Sheet included herewith, Figure 4 has been amended to schematically show the paper feeding chute 245, as described in the originally filed specification in at least the last paragraph on page 5 starting at line 23. Figure 4 was previously amended to include the L-shaped paper conveying path 243, as described in the originally filed specification in at least the last paragraph on page 5 starting at line 23. The applicants respectfully submit that these amendments to the Specification and Figure 4 do not constitute new matter as these amendments reflect the features of the originally filed application. In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully submit that the objection to the Specification and the Drawings should be withdrawn.

B. Response to the Section 103 Rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 20-24, 31, 33, and 34 (Takeda and Wang)

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 20-24, 31, 33, and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of Takeda and Wang. As stated above, the Examiner acknowledged during the July 13th telephone conference that the applied references cannot support a Section 103 rejection of amended independent claims 1, 22, and 31. Accordingly, in light of this tentative agreement, the Section 103 rejection of independent claims 1, 22, and 31 should be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9, 20, and 21 depend from base claim 1, claims 23 and 24 depend from base claim 22, and claims 33 and 34 depend from base claim 31. Accordingly, the Section 103 rejection of claims 2, 3, 5-7, 9, 20, 21, 23, 24, 33, and 34 should be withdrawn for at least the reasons discussed above with reference to their respective base claims, and for the additional features of these dependent claims.

C. Response to the Section 103 Rejection of Claims 4 and 30 (Takeda, Wang, and Sasaki)

Claims 4 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of Takeda, Wang, and Sasaki. Claim 4 depends from base claim 1, and claim 30 depends from base claim 25. The Office Action relies on Sasaki for disclosing a system that feeds paper in an L shape. (Office Action, p. 16.) Even assuming for the sake of argument that this is correct (and the applicants expressly do not), Sasaki fails to cure the above-noted deficiencies of Takeda and Wang to support a Section 103 rejection of base claims 1 and 25. Accordingly, claims 4 and 30 are allowable over the combination of Takeda, Wang, and Sasaki for at least the reason that these references, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the features of base claims 1 and 25, and the additional features of corresponding dependent claims 4 and 30. Therefore, the Section 103 rejection of dependent claims 4 and 30 should be withdrawn.

D. Response to the Section 103 Rejection of Claims 4 and 30 (Takeda, Wang, and Brown)

Claims 7 and 25-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of Takeda, Wang, and Brown. As stated above, the Examiner acknowledged during the

July 13th telephone conference that the applied references cannot support a Section 103 rejection of amended independent claim 25. Claim 7 depends from base claim 1, and claims 26-29 depend from base claim 25. The Office Action relies on Brown for disclosing a multifunction printer with "a lid on the left side of the scanning platen, laterally adjacent in a side-by-side configuration." (Office Action, p. 17.) Even assuming for the sake of argument that this is correct (and the applicants expressly do not), Brown fails to cure the above-noted deficiencies of Takeda and Wang to support a Section 103 rejection of base claim 1. Accordingly, claims 7 and 25-29 are allowable over the combination of Takeda, Wang, and Sasaki for at least the reason that these references, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the features of base claims 1 and 25, and the additional features of corresponding dependent claims 7 and 26-29. Therefore, the Section 103 rejection of claims 7 and 25-29 should be withdrawn.

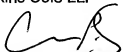
E. Allowable Claims 8 and 32

The applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 8 and 32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Although the applicant's attorney agrees with the Examiner that claims 8 and 32 are allowable, the applicant's attorney notes that these claims may be allowable for reasons other than those identified by the Examiner, and does not concede that the Examiner's characterization of the terms of these claims and the applied references are correct. Moreover, claim 8 depends from claim 1, and claim 32 depends from claim 31. Accordingly, claims 8 and 32 have not been rewritten in independent form because their respective base claims are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons explained above. Therefore, the objection to claims 8 and 32 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are patentable over the applied art. The applicants accordingly request reconsideration of the application and a mailing of a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Cameron Pilling at (206) 359-6123.

Respectfully submitted,
Perkins Coie LLP



Cameron B. Pilling
Registration No. 62,085

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Correspondence Address:

Customer No. 25096
Perkins Coie LLP
P.O. Box 1247
Seattle, Washington 98111-1247
(206) 359-8000